

S-412

1801

Old Washington Academy (site)  
Princess Anne vicinity  
private

The Old Washington Academy, the second building in a series of five schools that have honored President Washington, formerly stood two miles south of Princess Anne on the west side of the old Princess Anne-Westover Road. The two-and-a-half story Flemish bond brick school was erected in 1801 to replace the initial academy buildings erected along Back Creek during the pre-Revolutionary War period. Materials including iron, brass, thirty pairs of hinges and 7895 nails were salvaged from the first buildings after they burned in 1797. The trustees of the school decided in January of 1801 to select another site closer to Princess Anne. After the location was determined, construction of an ambitious seventy-five foot by forty-five foot brick academy began in October of the same year. During the building process it was requested of Littleton Dennis Teackle to inquire about insurance for the new school, and in 1808 a policy was written with the Baltimore Fire Insurance Company with a yearly premium of \$36.00. Classes were discontinued in this building after a new facility was erected in Princess Anne in 1891.

The formation of Washington Academy, first known as Somerset Academy, was initiated in 1767 by the prominent planter and lawyer, Samuel Wilson. Recognized early as a rare type of institution for the region, the academy was formally incorporated by the trustees in 1779. The act of incorporation stated,

Whereas sundry of the inhabitants of Somerset County by their humble petition to this general assembly have set forth that at their own cost and charge they have erected large and elegant and commodious buildings on Back Creek for a School sufficient for the comfortable accomodation of eighty students which has been already carried on to the great improvement of the youth of this and adjoining states, and to render it still more extensively useful and fix it upon a foundation which may have greater stability.

The trustees at the time included Jacob Kerr, Levin Gale, David Wilson, Samuel Wilson, John Winder, Henry Jackson, Thomas Maddux, William Polk, Isaac Henry, Henry Waggaman, and William Strawbridge.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Old Washington Academy

and/or common Second Washington Academy

## 2. Location

street & number East side of US 13 \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Princess Anne X vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district First

state Maryland \_\_\_\_\_ county Somerset

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
___ district	___ public	<u>X</u> occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	<u>X</u> private	___ unoccupied	<u>X</u> commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
<u>X</u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	<u>X</u> yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	<u>X</u> not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mountaire Farms of Delmarva

street & number US 13 \_\_\_\_\_ telephone no.: \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Princess Anne \_\_\_\_\_ state and zip code Maryland 21853

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Clerk of Court \_\_\_\_\_ liber \_\_\_\_\_

street & number Somerset County Courthouse \_\_\_\_\_ folio \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Princess Anne \_\_\_\_\_ state MD. 21853

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title \_\_\_\_\_

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local \_\_\_

pository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

Survey No. S-412

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☒ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### Old Washington Academy

The Old Washington Academy, the second in a series of five school buildings named for the first president, stood two miles south of Princess Anne, Somerset County, Maryland on the west side of the old Princess Anne-Westover Road. The two-and-a-half story nine-bay brick academy stood until the early twentieth century. The exact site of the academy building has not been built upon, but a short distance to the south Mountaire Farms of Delmarva has erected a large single-story poured concrete office building.

Built in 1801, the two-and-a-half story Flemish bond brick academy measured seventy five feet across by forty-five feet deep. Supported on a raised cellar foundation defined by a molded watertable, the two-and-a-half story structure was covered by an expansive hip roof. Rising through the center of the building were four large brick chimneys, and centered on the roof was a conical roofed cupola.

The main facade was nine bays across with a center three-bay pavilion that projected slightly from the adjacent wall surface. A center entrance was flanked by twelve-over-twelve sash windows. A gabled pediment topped the center three bays, and a round window pierced the typanum. To each side of the center pavilion were three twelve-over-twelve sash windows on the first floor and three twelve-over-eight sash windows on the second floor. Piercing the foundation wall were large-size cellar windows.

The end elevations were three bays deep with a center door on the first floor and flanking sash windows. The gable end slope of the hip roof was pierced by a single hip roofed dormer.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. S-412

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

### Significance

The Old Washington Academy, the second building in a series of five schools that honored President Washington, replaced the initial academy erected on Back Creek during the pre-Revolutionary War period. Materials including iron, brass, thirty pairs of hinges and 7895 nails were salvaged from the first academy after it burned in 1797. The trustees of the school decided in January of 1801 to select another site closer to Princess Anne. After the site was chosen, construction of an ambitious seventy-five foot by forty-five foot brick academy began in October of the same year. The large size and expensive construction of this academy attests to the success of the school through much of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.



Washington Academy Minute Book - Hall of Records

Washington Academy - passed November term 1779

Act of Incorporation

Whereas sundry of the inhabitants of Somerset County by their humble petition to this general assembly have set forth that at their own cost and charge they have erected large and elegant and commodious buildings on Back Creek for a School sufficient for the comfortable accomodation of eighty students which has been already carried on to the great improvement of the youth of this and adjoining states, and to render it still more extensively useful and fix it upon a foundation which may have greater stability.

Trustees of the Washington Academy - Jacob Kerr, Levin Gale, David Wilson, Samuel Wilson, John Winder, Henry Jackson, Thomas Maddux, William Polk, Issac Henry, Henry Waggaman, and William Strawbridge.

p. 1, reference to Back Creek School

p. 2, President salary - £250 yearly.

Princess Anne, April 18, 1797.

p. 30, In consequence of the burning of Washington Academy the Trustees met for the special purpose of taking such measures as may be thought expedient for the welfare of the said institution.

p. 34, Princess Anne, March 7, 1798.

Doctor Kerr reported that he had collected from the ruins of the old building the following materials to wit; 867 lbs. nails, 138 lbs. old iron, brass and c., 30 pair of hinges, 7895 thousand nails .....and 16 lbs.....

p. 41, January 14, 1801.

Resolved that Messrs Thomas King, John Done, John C. Wilson, William Jones, and Henry J. Carroll be a committee to examine where and upon what terms a sufficient quantity of land not less than four acres can be procured for the purpose of erecting the academy.

p. 41, Resolved that Major Wilson, Colonel Gale, Mr. Dennis, Mr. Robertson and General Winder be a committee to prepare a plan of a house suited for an Academy together with the probable expense of erecting the same and to make a full report thereof to the board at its next meeting.

p. 42, January 28, 1801.

The Committee appointed to examine and determine on a fit and proper place for building of the academy report that a piece of land belonging to Mr. Whittington King lying on the main road as the most eligible and for which Mr. King will take £10 per acre.

p. 42, Resolved that Captain John C. Wilson, Mr. James Wilson, Doctor Kerr and Mr. J. Stewart be a committee to have the land so contracted for located and the same laid off and ascertained by proper limits to the best advantage that they can obtain, not to be less than 6 acres or more than 10 acres and that they contract for 250,000 bricks to be delivered on the premises.

p. 43, The Committee appointed to contract for bricks report that they have executed a contract for the purpose with Mr. James Wilson.

p. 45, Princess Anne, October 7, 1801.

The board agreed with Isaac Gibbons to carry on the carpenters and joiners work of the Academy and executed a contract with him for that purpose. The board also agreed with Cyrus Sharp to execute the brick work of the Academy.

p. 55, Ordered that Mr. L.D. Teackle be and is hereby requested to correspond with some fire insurance company to know on what terms this house can be insured.

p. 59, It was unanimously resolved to employ Mr. Whitelock of Baltimore to plaster four rooms of the academy provided he will undertake to plaster two coats at 6 per square yard and laithe and plaster two coats at 9 per square yard.

p. 82, Washington Academy, June 15, 1808.

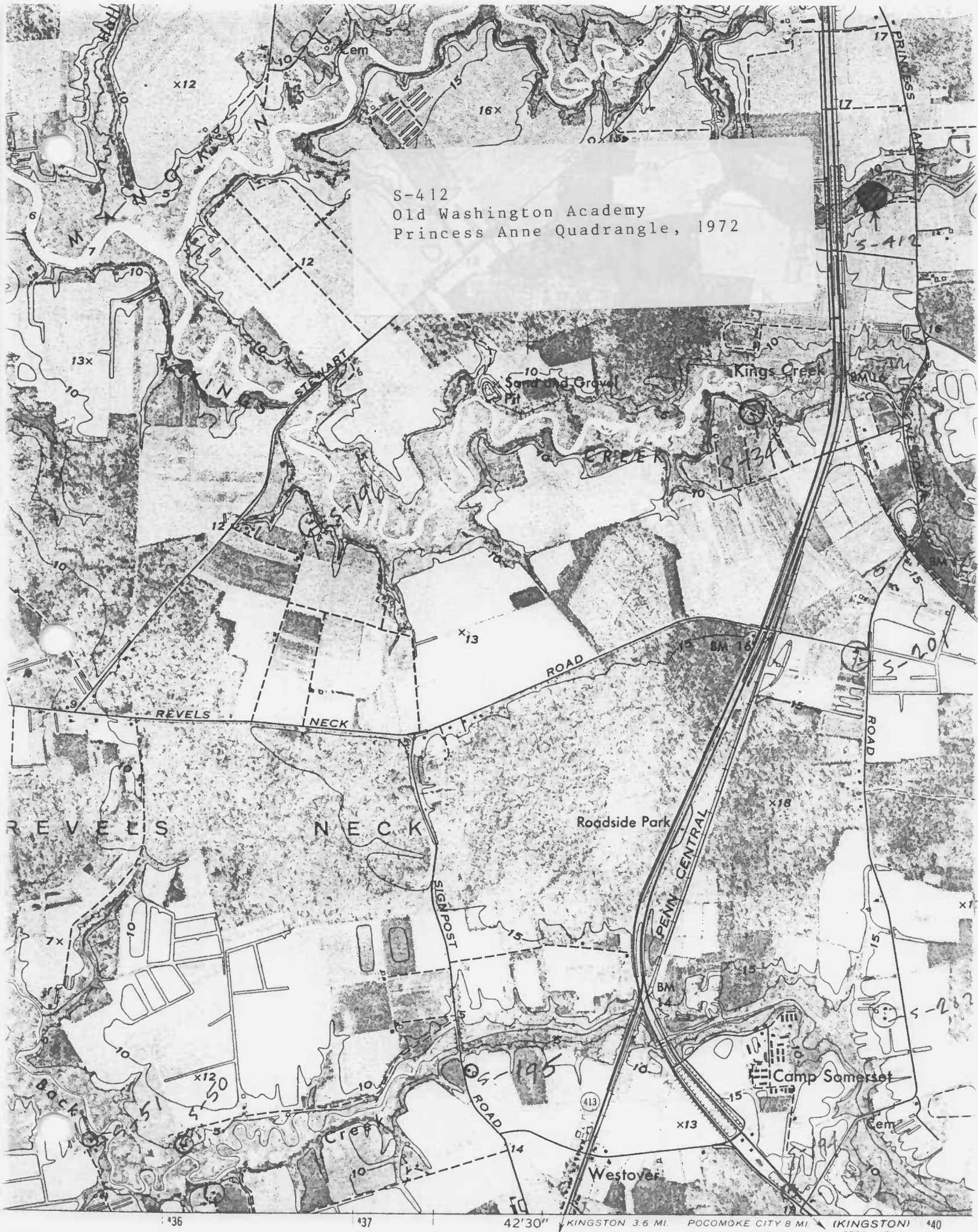
The Edifice of Washington Academy in Somerset County two stories and a basement story high about 75 feet long and 45 feet wide was built about 4 years ago, the outer walls and partitions of brick, covered with shingles, situate about 2 miles from Princess Anne - disconnected with other buildings, cost about \$10,000.

Fire Insurance Policy - 1808  
Baltimore Fire Insurance Company

July 30, 1808	\$36.00	premium
	.50	policy
one year	<u>\$36.50</u>	

"the brick edifice of Washington Academy in Somerset County covered with shingles situate about two miles from Princess Anne in said County."





S-412  
Old Washington Academy  
Princess Anne Quadrangle, 1972